of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Central Council for Homeopathy (CCH), Indian Nursing Council (INC) etc. before it applies for a deemed to be University status. This, however, is not applicable to the institutions in the emerging areas with promise of excellence which can be granted Deemed to be a Univesity status on provisional basis under *de-novo* category subject to a review after 5 years. The Central Government has granted Deemed to be University status to eight *de-novo* institutions as under:

| Sl. No. | Name of the institution | Date of Notification |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad | 04.08.2000 |
| 2. | Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management, Gwalior | 26.03.2001 |
| 3. | International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad | 21.08.2001 |
| 4. | Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore | 13.01.2003 |
| 5. | National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon | 20.05.2002 |
| 6. | Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, Bangalore | 08.05.2002 |
| 7. | Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi | 07.05.2002 |
| 8. | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi | 20.05.2002 |

**Train between Bangalore and Vijayawada**

*68. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the heavy demand from commuters to run express train from Bangalore to Vijayawada and to run Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express on a daily basis and consequent on the meeting with Chief Minister of Karnataka any decision has been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Effect of drought on rabi sowing**

*69. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a depressive Kharif season due to drought and low soil moisture has affected rabi sowing in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether sowing so far of rabi wheat, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds has shown shortfall over the last year;

(c) if so, to what extent there has been a shortfall of rabi crop during the current season; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situtation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The area sown during Rabi season this year is about 3.5 million hectares less than the area sown last year. The decrease in area coverage under rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds during Rabi season this year over the last year is about 1.0 million hectares, 1.3 million hectares, 0.5 million hectares, 0.6 million hectares 0.1 million hectare respectively.

(c) Rabi harvest is yet to take place. However, according to the second advance estimates of production for 2002-03 as on February 10, 2003, the total Rabi foodgrains production is likely to be 92.91 million tones which is lower by 7.56 million tones or 7.5% as compared to last year's Rabi foodgrains production. Oilseeds production during the Rabi season 2002-03 is likely to be 6.99 million tonnes which is 0.58 million tonnes or 7.7% less than the production of Rabi oilseeds last year.

(d) According to the second advance estimates, the total production of foodgrains during 2002-03 is expected to be 183.17 million tonnes and the total production of oilseeds is expected to be 15.44 million tones. As the stock position of foodgrains in the country is much above the buffer norm, there is no crisis. This is also borne out by the fact that the wholesale price index (1993-94=100) in respect of foodgrains increased